



Our mission is to prevent deaths, injuries, property loss, and environmental damage resulting from wildfires in Deschutes County.

**August 18, 2020 – Steering Committee – Zoom Meeting – 8:00 AM – 9:30 AM
DRAFT Minutes**

Steering Committee Members & Staff Present:

	Ken Kehmna	Fire Rep 1	Redmond Fire Chief
	Gary Marshall	Fire Rep 2	Deschutes Rural Fire Dist. #2
	Dan Daugherty	Fire Rep 3	La Pine Fire Dept.
	Doug Green	Fire Rep 4	Bend / Sisters Fire
	Vacant	Insurance Industry	
X	Chris Perry	911 Service District	Deschutes County
X	Peter Gutowsky	Community Development Dept.	Deschutes County
	Dan Galecki	Private Forestry	Spin Drift Forestry
X	Patti Gentiluomo	HOA Rep	Sunriver HOA
	Dave Gibson	HOA Rep	Black Butte Ranch HOA
X	Dean Richardson	HOA Rep	Upper Deschutes River Communities
	Nathan Garibay	Sheriff's Office - Emergency Mgmt.	Deschutes County
X	David Morman	Citizen Rep	At Large - Red Cross
X	Oliver Tatom	Citizen Rep	At Large
	Gordon Foster	Oregon Dept. of Forestry	ODF - Unit Forester
X	Doug Johnson for Alex Robertson	COFMS US Forest Service	USFS
	Vacant	OSU Extension Service	OSU Ext
	Paula Simone	Central Oregon Comm. College	COCC
	Vacant	Environmental Community	
X	Ed Keith, Chair	County Forester	Deschutes County
X	Tony DeBone	Commissioner	Deschutes County
X	Nick Ahnen	Marketing	Serv pro
	Brandon Fogelman	Business	
X	Jessica Laberge	Business	
X	Robert Pohly	Citizen Rep	At Large Retired
	Boone Zimmerlee	Director	Deschutes County

Others Present:

Alex Enna, Fuels Program Manager, Deschutes National Forest
Greg Bryant – Deschutes River Woods
Alison Green – Oregon: Living With Fire
Jeff Amaral – Bend Parks and Recreation
Ray Miao – Woodside Ranch
Lars Santana – NRCS
Erin Kilcullen – Deschutes SWCD
Rick Retzman Trout Creek Village HOA/Sisters-Camp Sherman Fire
Boyd Turner, Resort at Eagle Crest
Georgia Hill, Ridge at Eagle Crest
Todd Peplin, SWCD

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Ed welcomed the attendees, Boone is currently on a fire assignment to the Mosier Creek Fire and is unable to attend. Introductions were done through Chat

AGENDA, PAST MINUTES AND UPDATE

Agenda and past minutes were sent out in a previous email. Ed solicited for any input and reminded folks to email Boone directly if they did find any needed changes.

Program Update

- Greater La Pine CWPP is now signed and will be posted to be website soon.
- Sunriver CWPP is out for the 30 day review, and is posted on the website if you have any input send it to Boone.
- Firewise USA, there are about 14 communities progressing through some stage of the recognition process, with about 40 communities currently recognized.
- FEMA is progressing through the Environmental and Historical Preservation process in advance of funding the pending HMGP grant.
- The community wildfire grant program is now open, applications are due by September 30. There are two online Q&A sessions being offered in the next two weeks.

Meeting Topic

Deschutes National Forest Prescribed Fire Program Update, Alex Enna, Fuels Program Manager for the Deschutes National Forest

The Deschutes National Forest has been implementing about 5000 ac / year of prescribed fire on average, half on the Bend-Ft. Rock and the rest on Crescent and Sisters Districts.

2019 was a big year, mainly due to large units on eastern side of forest

2020 there was a regional pause due to COVID

Contract crews and engines have been used recently and have boosted capacity

Other factors that have added capacity include TREFX, local fire departments, USFS non-fire staff and AD's.

When is the season? Bulk is done in spring and fall – October is big for pile burning, May is the biggest month for underburns.

How much should be burned each year? Just considering the Ponderosa pine type which totals 500,000 acres on the Deschutes, 20,000 – 100,000 acres per year should be burned based on 5-25 year fire return interval. This puts what we are getting done (5,000 acres across all forest types) in perspective.

There is an interactive map on www.centraloregonfire.org – you can zoom and scroll in the map to see the planned units in detail including unit boundaries and acres. They are color coded showing planned, in progress and completed. This helps answer questions from communities regarding planned units that are near where people live.

The Rosland Road Fire was a great success in July. The fire burned into a recently treated unit in the Odin planning area, and once the fire hit the treated unit it reduced the fire intensity and contributed to firefighters being able to stop the fire and protect the nearby subdivision of Newberry Estates. There is a video that tells the story that can be viewed here: <https://www.facebook.com/watch/?v=1400457240342696&extid=ntbhkikqe4Ojes48>

Alex shared a map of the greater Bend area showing recent units west and south of Bend. Larger units have been a challenge in these areas due to smoke impacts, but over the past 5 years the units have started to come together to build a zone of fuel breaks protecting the community. Planned work will continue to build on these units in the coming years.

This work around Bend has involved cross boundary work using the Wyden Amendment. Bend Parks and Recreation District, the High Desert Museum and several private landowners are participating, with more units north of Shevlin Park on private lands being planned.

An upcoming project currently in the planning stages is Cabin Butte south and east of Bend. This will help protect several communities and mitigate the multitude of starts that are experienced in this area.

Another project in the planning stages is the Twin project which is about 40,000 acres near Wickiup Reservoir and Twin Lakes. This project is in the planning stages and planning will be complete in 2022 with implementation scheduled in 2023. This project involves a large amount of prescribed fire to protect both communities and the high value recreation sites in this area.

The Buttes to Basin project involves a lot of partners that will be submitted as a Joint Chiefs Landscape Restoration project this fall. The project area stretches from south of Bend to the Metolius Basin. This could be up to \$2 million per year for USFS with additional funding for private land treatments as well.

The forest is looking forward to the fall for direction on burning. Pile burning is more likely for the fall, but direction is still pending. Locations will likely be limited to areas that aren't near communities to limit impacts to communities with smoke.

There are a lot of units still pending west of Bend, Sisters in the SAFR area south of Sisters and along highway 20, ODIN still has units pending in the greater La Pine area as well. High Desert Museum also has a pending unit. It remains to be seen what can be accomplished and this will be dependent on burning policy depending on the current limitations due to COVID-19.

Q/A

How do you deal with transients in burn units?

This is not a new issue, it usually takes work 3-4 days in advance to move people out of the unit. Sometimes trailers and vehicles need to be towed, and abandoned property is collected and cleaned up in advance of burning.

ROUNDTABLE

Alison Green, Oregon Living With Fire:

Cooperative video with Central Electric is forthcoming documenting some work they are doing on the Sisters Ranger District.

Also working on shared stewardship with both national forests

Rosland Road and other fires have gelled preparedness efforts in nearby communities including Newberry Estates.

Boyd Turner, Resort at Eagle Crest

Continuing with Firewise efforts within the community.

Chris Perry, Deschutes 911

Reminder to sign up for Deschutes alerts

Busy with fires and other activity

Doug Johnson, COFMS

Over 40 fires in past 3-4 days.

3 fires are of higher concern currently. Green Ridge is currently 26 acres, steep slopes hampering suppression, currently staffed with a type 3 team. Lily fire near Lily Lake is approximately 20 acres, in the old Charlton fire on south end of forest. Jumper accident occurred last night that involved life flight. Thanks to Nathan for assistance in that incident.

Nationally preparedness level 4 (scale is 1-5, 5 is highest level), regionally PL 3. Several IMT's are being deployed as fire season is getting busier.

David Morman, American Red Cross

The COVID non-congregate sheltering plan has been implemented recently, Mosier Creek and Juniper Ridge fires both involved an evacuation. Both of these were learning opportunities.

Juniper Ridge – 25 households, 75 people gathered temporarily but evacuation ramped down quickly. A few people stayed overnight, hotel rooms were all booked, some classrooms were opened at Mt. View HS, 5 people stayed the night.

Jeff Amaral – Bend Parks and Recreation District

A few trees came down with the recent storm and have now been cleaned up, nothing else to report.

Lars Santana – NRCS

Continuing on Joint Chiefs proposal, as mentioned by Alex earlier and will be finalizing and submitting in October.

Oliver Tatom

Continuing to strategize on outreach in Sundance since there is no HOA. Cabin Butte will be in their back yard which may motivate some people.

Peter Gutowsky, Deschutes County Community Development

Zechariah Heck has taken a job with ODOT, Kyle Collins will be representing CDD starting in September.

CDD is working with IPRE at U of O on a community engagement project related to recommendations from the Wildfire Mitigation Committee that has been mentioned in past meetings, some PW representatives may be contacted for input as this effort moves forward. Once the community engagement process begins in October or November look for more opportunities to provide input on this process.

Rick Retzman, Trout Creek Village

Trout Creek Village recently became Firewise and Rick will be drafting a letter to community to celebrate that milestone.

Todd Peplin, Deschutes SWCD

SWCD is working with NRCS to assist with the Joint Chiefs project being developed and the SWCD will assist with private lands participation.

Todd has also met with ODF and Boone to discuss how to increase participation in fuel reduction activities in southern Deschutes County.

Bob Pohly, Mountain High

Irrigation water has been reduced this year, and has now been shut off as of Saturday. This will persist through the month, and lawns are browning out in the community.

HOA annual meeting that was postponed and re-scheduled for September 13, Boone will be the guest speaker.

A Firewise display is now up in the community pool house and is a prominent reminder of Firewise efforts.

Commissioner Tony DeBone

A letter of support for Steelhead Falls EA has been approved by the Board and will be sent to BLM.

Recent fires are a reminder of the need for defensible space, with all current fires, be sure to share the need with neighbors.

He is supportive of all the Firewise community efforts that are ongoing.

Greg Bryant – Deschutes River Woods

Annual meeting was postponed due to COVID, but planning some defensible space outreach for the fall.

Dean Richardson, Upper Deschutes River Communities (called with update after meeting, was not able to get off mute)

Glad to hear about Twin project that Alex highlighted as that will help reduce risk to UDRC communities.

UDRC currently has funding under two grants, the low income, senior and disabled program and the MCM grant both provide funding for defensible space. More information is available on their website.

The meeting adjourned at 9:13 am.